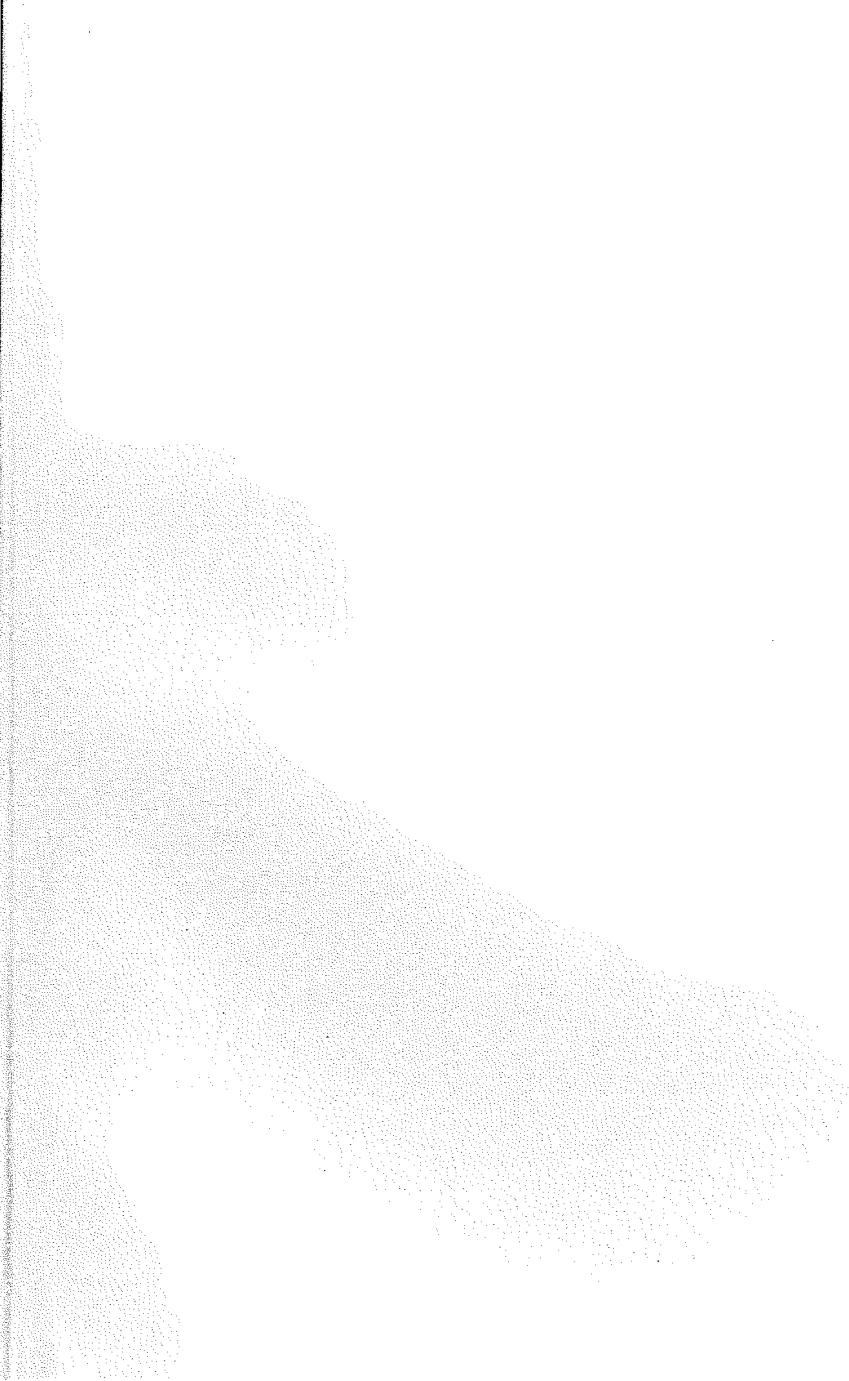


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Assurbanipal Inscriptions in the Oriental Institute: Prisms E, H, and J¹

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In 1928, E. Chiera purchased for the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago several hundred cuneiform texts, including parts of numerous Assurbanipal prisms, from a local dealer in Mosul. The fragments most likely originate from clandestine digging at Nineveh during R. C. Thompson's excavations and may come from Area SH (House of Aššur-šumu-ušabši, formerly "Sennacherib's House") — which is east of Gate 12, near the city wall, and approximately 500 m north of Kuyunjik — or a similar provenance². Once they were in the Oriental Institute, A. C. Piepkorn systematically examined and transliterated the texts, grouped them more or less according to the editions to which they belong, and gave them consecutive museum numbers. He published editions of A 7919-8010 in 1933, but did not complete his editions of A 8011-8163³. In 1988, M. Cogan and H. Tadmor published a catalogue of the previously unpublished Assurbanipal material, including some additional fragments purchased by Chiera and Piepkorn (A 11848 – A 11870)⁴. Between the beginning of 1990 and the summer of 1994, R. Borger examined and transliterated all of the aforementioned texts in the Asiatic (A) collection and, in 1996, he published (on microfiche) handwritten transliterations of all of the Assurbanipal prisms in the Oriental Institute⁵. In March 2002, December 2003, and October 2004, I recollated and copied the fragments of Prisms E, H,

¹ I would like to thank G. Frame and R. F. G. Sweet for offering their critical remarks on a draft of this manuscript. Their assistance is greatly appreciated. Moreover, I am grateful to W. Farber for allowing me access to the Assurbanipal material in the Oriental Institute and to J. Tenney for the efficient and speedy supply of prisms.

² See R. C. Thompson – R. W. Hutchinson, *A Century of Exploration at Nineveh* (London 1929) 83; A. C. Piepkorn, *Historical Prism Inscriptions of Ashurbanipal I: Editions E, B₁₋₅, D, and K* (= *Asb.*; Chicago 1933) 2-3 and n. 12; J. E. Reade, "Archaeology and the Kuyunjik Archives", in: K. R. Veenhof (ed.), *Cuneiform Archives and Libraries* (CRR 30; Leiden 1986) 216; and M. Cogan – H. Tadmor, "Ashurbanipal Texts in the Collection of the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago", *JCS* 40 (1988) 84-85.

³ Piepkorn, *Asb.*

⁴ Cogan-Tadmor, *JCS* 40, 84-96.

⁵ R. Borger, *Beiträge zum Inschriftenwerk Assurbanipals: die Prismenklassen A, B, C = K, D, E, F, G, H, J und T sowie andere Inschriften* (= *BIWA*; Wiesbaden 1996).

and J. Since copies of these pieces have not yet been published, I take this opportunity to do so with the kind permission of W. Farber, curator of the tablet collection of the Oriental Institute. New editions of the fragments, with a few minor notes, are also included here.

Prisms E₁ and E₂

Fragments of at least thirteen (possibly sixteen) clay prisms preserve parts of the earliest editions of Assurbanipal's prism inscriptions: Prisms E₁ (ca. 666-665 BC) and E₂ (ca. 665-664 BC)⁶. The majority of the pieces originate from nineteenth century excavations (nos. 1, 9-11, and 14-15) or from Thompson's excavations at Nineveh (nos. 4-8, 12, and 16), and a few were purchased by Chiera (nos. 2-3 and 12-13). Both editions describe the nomination of Assurbanipal as heir designate of Assyria, his education in the House-of-Succession, the first Egyptian campaign, and the conquest of the city of Qirbit. Prism E₁ (nos. 1-3) also contains reports of the submission of the Lydian king Gyges, a lion hunt, an *akitu*-festival held in Arbela, and the rebuilding of the House-of-Succession in Nineveh. Prism E₂ (nos. 4-8) has a different version of the Gyges narrative and an account of the rebuilding of a section of the citadel wall of Nineveh.

Catalogue:

E₁

1. K 1821 (Borger's E1) (+)? 85-5-22,2⁷
2. A 7920 + A 8138 (Borger's E13)
3. 8130 (Borger's E14)

E₂

4. BM 121018 (+) BM 128305 + BM 134481 (Borger's E6)
5. BM 127923 + BM 128324 (Borger's E8)
6. BM 127940 + BM 134455 (Borger's E9)
7. BM 128306 + BM 134445 (Borger's E11)
8. BM 134454 (Borger's E12)

⁶ For the proposed dates and relationship between the E-Editions, see in particular M. Cogan – H. Tadmor, "Gyges and Ashurbanipal: A Study of Literary Transmission", *Or* 46 (1977) 65-85; E. Weissert – H.-U. Onasch, "The Prologue to Ashurbanipal's Prism E", *Or* 61 (1992) 58-73; and H.-U. Onasch, *Die assyrischen Eroberungen Ägyptens* (AAT 27; Wiesbaden 1994) 1, 68-78. For the most recent edition, see Borger, *BIWA* 173-184, 198-199, 204, 210-212, 217-219, and 251-252.

⁷ For the conjectured join, see E. Weissert, "Royal Hunt and Royal Triumph in a Prism Fragment of Ashurbanipal (85-5-22,2)", in: S. Parpola and R. M. Whiting (eds.), *Assyria 1995: Proceedings of the 10th Anniversary Symposium of the Neo-Assyrian Text Corpus Project Helsinki, September 7-11, 1995* (Helsinki 1997) 340 n. 6.

E₁ or E₂

9. K 1828 (Borger's E2)
10. 81-7-27,263⁸
11. 89-4-26,151 (Borger's E4)
12. BM 121029 + BM 128230 (+) BM 128298 (+) A 7919 (Borger's E7)
13. A 8140 (Borger's E15)
Uncertain attribution⁹
14. 82-5-22,21 (Borger's E3)
15. BM 99326 (Borger's E5)
16. BM 128302 + BM 128311 (Borger's E10)

Five fragments of the E-Prisms have been identified among the cuneiform texts purchased by Chiera; Borger has subsequently joined two of the pieces, A 7920 and A 8130. A7920 + A 8138 and A 8130 clearly belong to Edition E₁, whereas A 7919 and A 8140 could be part of either E₁ or E₂.

A 7919 (old Oriental Institute no. 44; Borger's E7) probably belongs to the same object as BM 121029+, is a duplicate of K 1828 and BM 121018+, measures $7.4 \times 7.6 \times 2.1$ cm, and most likely comes from the middle of cols. iii and iv of a heptagonal or octagonal prism¹⁰. Both columns preserve portions of an account of the first Egyptian campaign. Col. i' has part of the beginning of the earliest known report of the first Egyptian campaign, specifically the section describing Esarhaddon's conquest of Egypt and the establishment of a pro-Assyrian government there. The extant text duplicates K 1828 i'¹¹. Col. ii' records the flight of the pharaoh Taharka from Memphis to Thebes by boat and the defeat of his army and warships; it also enumerates the support that the kings of Syria and the Sea Coast, as well as some pro-Assyrian Egyptian city rulers, provided Assyria with during the reconquest of Egypt. Lines 4'-13' duplicate BM 121018+ i' and the Large Egyptian Tablets (LET): 23'-34'¹².

⁸ For the identification of the fragment, see R. Whiting, "Gleanings from ADD, 2. An Unrecognized Assurbanipal Prism Fragment", *SAAB* 10 (1996) 3-4.

⁹ For the opinion that nos. 14-16 belong to an unclassified edition that was composed sometime between 663 BC and 650 BC, see Weissert-Onasch, *Or* 61, 73 n. 46; and Novotny, "Zahali-Metal for Marduk's *Paramāhu* and the Date of Assurbanipal's E-Prisms", *Or* 72 (2003) 211-214. The fragments preserve passages reporting on the gods endowing the king with surpassing intelligence and a muscular physique, the completion of the temple of the god Aš-šur in Assur (Eḫursaggalkurkurra, "House of the Great Mountain of the Lands"), and the restoration and decoration of the temple of the god Marduk in Babylon (Esagila, "House whose Top is High").

¹⁰ Cogan and Tadmor (*Or* 46, 69-70) suggest that the fragment comes from cols. ii-iii.

¹¹ Borger, *BIWA* 177, Stück 7.

¹² Respectively Borger, *BIWA* 178, Stück 10; and Onasch, *ÄAT* 27/1, 104.

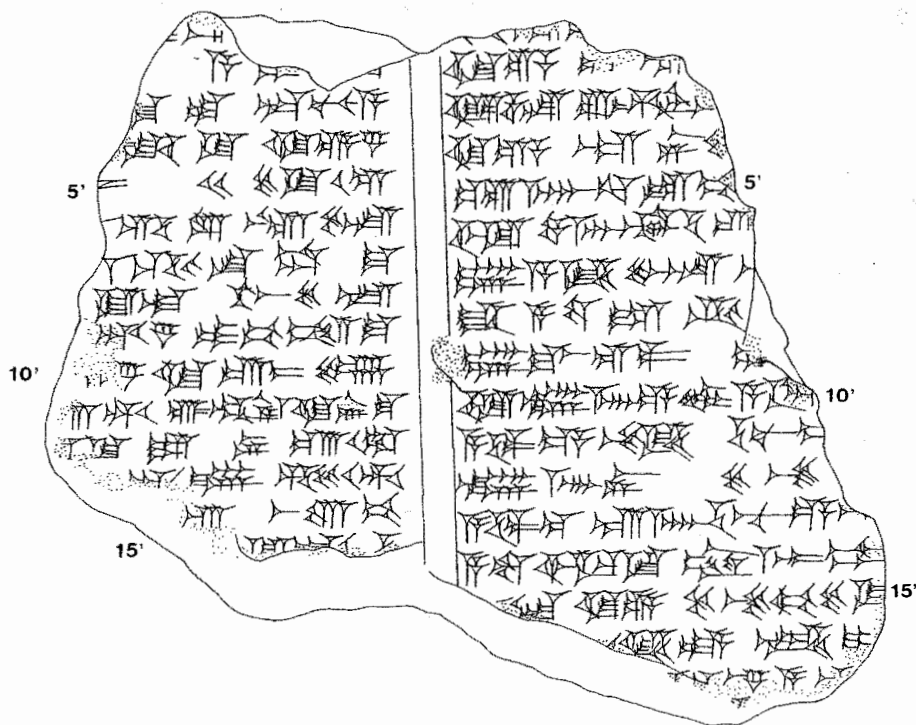


Fig. 1 - A 7919

Transliteration

col. i'

Lacuna

- 1') [... x]x ^rru¹-[u-qu]
 2') [...] a-^rlak¹-[tu]š
 3') [šá² ^mAN.ŠÁR-ŠEŠ-SUM-na MAN KUR-aš-šur.k]i AD ba-nu-u-a
 4') [x x-du-ma il-l]i-ku qé-reb-šá
 5') [BAD₅.BAD₅ ^mtar-qu]-^rú¹ MAN KUR.ku-u-si
 6') [iš-ku-nu-ma ú-pa]r-ri-ru el-lat-su
 7') [KUR.mu-šur KUR.ku-ú-s]u ik-šu-du-ma
 8') [ina la mi-ni iš]-lu-la šal-lat-su
 9') [KUR² šu-a-tu ina si-ḫir]-^rti¹-šá i-bi-il-ma
 10') [a-na mi-šir KUR]-^raš-šur¹.KI ú-tir
 11') [MU.MEŠ URU.MEŠ-ni maḥ-r]u-ti ú-nak-ki-^rir¹-ma
 12') [a-na eš-šu-ú-te i]z-ku-ra ni-bit-sún
 13') [ARAD.MEŠ-šú a-na LUGAL]-^rti¹ LÚ.NAM-u-ti
 14') [LÚ.GAR-nu-ú-te ú-pa]-^rqid¹ ina lib-bi

15') [GUN² *man-da-at-tu be*]-¹*lu-ti-šú*¹

Lacuna

col. ii'

Lacuna

- 1') ¹*uṣ-ši*¹-*m*[*a a-na šu-zu-ub na-piš-te-šú*]
- 2') *qé-reb* ¹GIŠ¹.M[¹*ir-kab-ma*]
- 3') KARAŠ-su *ú-maš-šir-m*[*a e-diš ip-par-šid-ma*]
- 4') *qé-reb* URU.ni-¹*i*¹ [*e-ru-ub*]
- 5') GIŠ.MÁ.MEŠ *qa-ra-bi* [*ma-la it-ti-šú*]
- 6') *ù* ERIM.MEŠ MÈ-šú ¹*ú*¹-[*ṣab-bi-tú ina ŠU.II*]
- 7') LÚ.A-KIN *bu-su-r*[*at ḥa-de-e*]
- 8') *ša a-tam-ra iq*-[*ba-a ia-a-ši*]
- 9') [L]Ú.GAL-SAG L[Ú.NAM.MEŠ]
- 10') *ù* LUGAL.MEŠ *e-bir*-¹ID¹ [*ka-li-šú-un*]
- 11') *a-di e-mu-qi-šú-nu* GI[Š.MÁ.MEŠ-šú-nu]
- 12') LUGAL.MEŠ-*ni* KUR.mu-[*uṣ-ri ARAD.MEŠ da-gil pa-ni-ia*]
- 13') *a-di* GIŠ.MÁ.MEŠ-šú-nu *e-m*[*u-qi-šú-un*]
- 14') *a-na ḥul-lu-uq* ¹*tar-q*[*u-ú*]
- 15') [*u*]l-tu *qé-reb* KUR.mu-*ṣur* KUR.k[*u-u-si*]
- 16') [UGU] ¹*e*¹-[*m*]u-*qi-ia maḥ-r*[*a-a-ti*]
- 17') [*ú-rad-di-m*]a [*áš-pur*]₁ a-[*na*]₁ [URU.ni-*i*¹]
- 18') [... x]x [...]

Lacuna

Translation

col. i'

Lacuna

i' 1'-15') [... a] re[mote place, ...] its w[ay, *wherein* Esarhaddon, king of Assyri]a, the father who engendered me, [*went down* and mar]ched inside it, [defeated Tahark]a, the king of Kush, [and scat]tered his forces, conquered [Egypt (and) Kus]h, and [car]ried off its booty [without number]. He took possession of [that land in] its [entire]ty and brought it [into] Assyrian [territory]. He changed [the form]er [names of the cities] and [g]ave them [new] names. [He ap]pointed [his servants therein as king]s, viceroys, (and) [governors. Annually, he imposed upon them tax (and) tribute due to] him [as l]ord.

Lacuna

col. ii'

Lacuna

ii' 1'-8') He (Taharka) escaped [from Memphis, the city of his kingship where (he put) his trust. To save his life, he embarked] on a

bo[at], abandoned his camp, [fled alone, and entered] the city of Thebes. Th[ey (my army) captured as many] warships [as he had with him] and his combat troops. A messenger to[ld me] the [good] new[s] which he had witnessed.

ii' 9'-18') To banish Tahark[a f]rom Egypt (and) K[ush, I added to] my form[er] a[r]my [the] magnates, go[vernors], and [all] the kings of Syria (*eber nāri*), along with their armies (and) b[oats], (as well as) the kings of Eg[yp]t, servants obedient to me], together with their boats (and) ar[mies], and I sent (them) to the [city of Thebes. ...].

Lacuna

A 7920 + A 8138 (old Oriental Institute nos. 156 and 70; Borger's E13) is an exemplar of Prism E₁, a duplicate of K 1821+ and A 8130, measures 10.9 × 7.8 × 2.0 cm, and is a fragment from the middle of the last two columns of a heptagonal prism. Col. i' preserves a substantial portion of the version of the report of the submission of Gyges in which nobody in Assurbanipal's court was able to interpret the message of the Lydian envoy¹³. Lines 3'-15' duplicate K 1821+ ii' and line 25' duplicates A 8130 i' 1'. Col. ii' has the final part of the building report, which is the earliest known account recording the rebuilding of the House-of-Succession in Nineveh, and most of the concluding formulae¹⁴. Lines 20'-23' duplicate A 8130 ii' 1'-4'.

Transliteration

col. i'

Lacuna

- 1') [...]x¹[x x]
- 2') [... LÚ.A]-[KIN-šú ID¹ [x x]
- 3') [a-na šá¹-a-al šul-¹mì¹-ia
- 4') [i]t-¹ha-a a-na mi-šir KUR-ia
- 5') [U]N.MEŠ KUR-ia i-mu-ru-šu-ma
- 6') [man]-nu-me-e at-ta a-¹hu-u iq-bu-šú
- 7') [ša ma]-te-ma LÚ.RA.GABA-ú-ku-un
- 8') [da-ra]g-gu la iš-ku-na a-na ki-sur-ri-ni
- 9') [a-na N]INA.KI URU be-lu-ti-ia
- 10') [x x (x)] ú-bi-lu-ni-šú ina mah-ri-ia
- 11') [EME.MEŠ š]i-it ⁴UTU-ši e-reb ⁴UTU-ši
- 12') [šá ⁴a-š]ur ú-mal-lu-u qa-tu-u-a

¹³ Borger, *BIWA* 182, Stück 16. For studies of the different Gyges narratives see in particular Cogan-Tadmor, *Or* 46, 65-84.

¹⁴ Borger, *BIWA* 183-184, Stück 19.

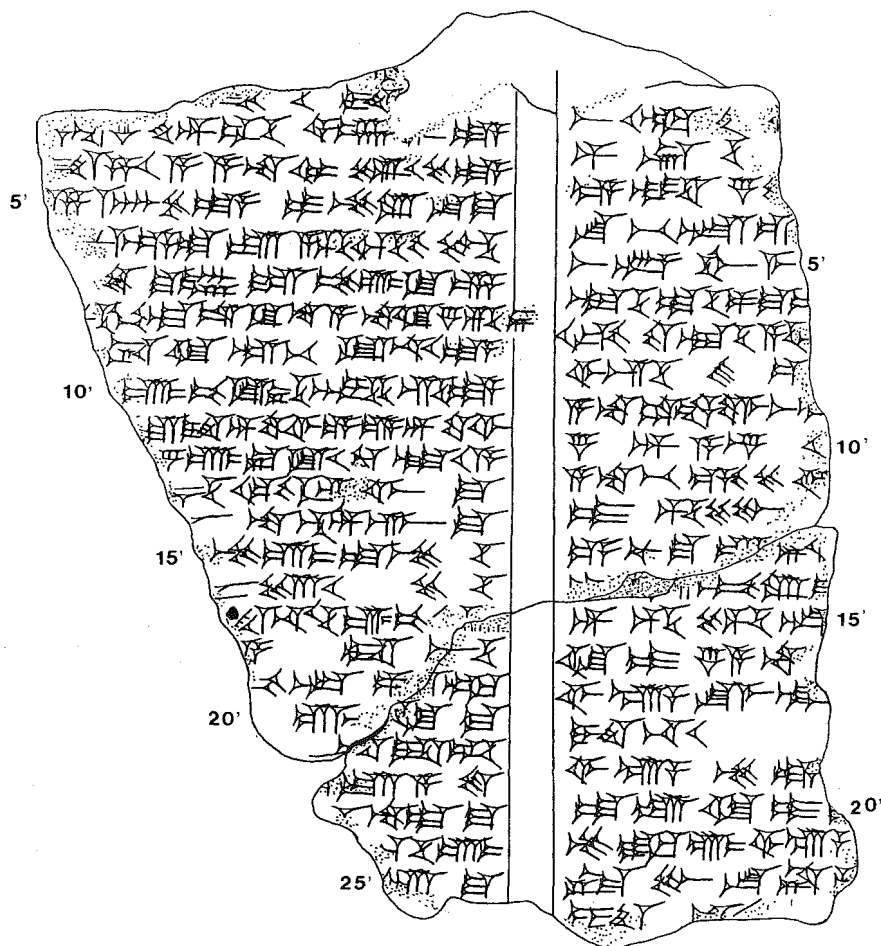


Fig. 2 - A 7920 + A 8138

- 13') [EN-li-šá-n]i-šú ul ib-ši-ma
 14') [EME-š]ú na-ak-rat-ma
 15') [la i-šem]-mu-ú at-mu-šú
 16') [ul-tu m]i-šir KUR-šú
 17') [... i]t-ti-šú ú-bi-l[a]m-^rma¹
 18') [šá ú-šá-an-na²]-^ra¹ da-b[a]b-šú
 19') [ki-a-am³ iq-b]i² ARAD pa-l[i]h-ka
 20') [...] ú-^rtul³-ma
 21') [MÁŠ.GI₆ i]-^rna¹-ta-al

- 22') [... x]x-ta-a-te
 23') [... ša]k²-na-at-ma
 24') [...]-hu-ú
 25') [... na-pi-i]h-ma

Lacuna

col. ii'

Lacuna

- 1') ina muh-¹hi¹ x[x ...]
 2') maš-kán-šú [...]
 3') e-li šá u[₄-mi pa-ni]
 4') šu-bat-su ¹ú¹-[rap-piš]
 5') ina ITI šal-me [u₄-me še-me-e]
 6') UŠ₈-šú ad-di-ma ¹ú¹-[kin SIG₄-su]
 7') ul-tú UŠ₈-šú a-d[i GABA.DIB-bé-šú]
 8') ar-šip ¹ú¹-[šak-lil]
 9') a-na EGIR u₄-me ina L[UGAL.MEŠ DUMU.MEŠ-ia]
 10') šá ⁴a-šur u [^d15³]
 11') a-na be-lut KUR ¹ú¹ [UN.MEŠ]
 12') i-nam-bu-[u zi-kir-šú]
 13') e-nu-ma ¹É-UŠ¹-[u-ti šu-a-tu]
 14') ¹i¹-[I]ab-bi-ru-m[a in-na-hu]
 15') an-hu-us-s[u lu-ud-diš]
 16') ki-i šá a-na-[ku MU.SAR-u]
 17') ši-ṭir šu-me LUG[AL pa-ni² a-mu-ru]
 18') it-ti [MU-SAR-e]
 19') ši-ṭir MU-¹ia¹ [áš-ku-nu]
 20') at-ta ki-i i[a-a-ti-ma]
 21') MU.SAR-ú ši-ṭir [MU-ia a-mur-ma]
 22') ÌXGIŠ pu-šu-uš U[DU.SISKUR BAL-qí]
 23') ₁it-ti₁ [MU.SAR-e ši-ṭir MU-ka]

Lacuna

Translation

col. i'

Lacuna

i' 1'-15') [...] his [mes]senger [...] to enquire about my well-being [ap-
 proached the border of my land. [The pe]ople of my land saw him and
 said to him: "[Wh]o are you, stranger? An ambassador of yours has [nev]er
 taken [the ro]ad to our territory." They brought him [to Ni]neveh, the city
 of my lordship, (and) [...] into my presence. [(Among all) the languages]

(from) sun[ri]se (to) sunset, [which the god Ašš]ur had placed at my disposal, nobody could [master] his [langua]ge. [Hi]s [language] was (completely) different and his speech [could not be unders]tood.

i' 16'-25') He bro[ug]ht [a ... w]ith him [from the b]order of his land, [who repeated] his spe[e]ch [to] me, [sayi]ng [as follows]: "The servant who rev[er]es you, lay down [...] and [s]aw [a dream. ... wa]s established [... ros]e and [...]

Lacuna

col. ii'

Lacuna

ii' 1'-8') Upon [...] its (the House-of-Successions's) emplacement [...]. I [made] its structure [larger] than it had been pre[v]iously. I laid its foundations in a favourable month (and) [on an auspicious day], and [firmly] es[tablished its brickwork. I completely] (re)built (it) from its foundations t[o its crenellations].

ii' 9'-15') In the future, [may] (somebody) among the k[ings, my children], whom the god Aššur and [the goddess Ištar] nomin[ate] for ruling over the land [and people, renovate] the dilapidated section(s) of [this] House-of-Succ[ession], when it becomes old an[d dilapidated].

ii' 16'-23') Just as I, (when) I [found an inscription] written in the name of a [previous] ki[ng, placed (it)] with [an inscription] written in my name, you, like m[e, (when) you find] an inscription written in [my name], anoint (it) with oil, [offer] a s[acrifice, (and) place (it)] with [an inscription written in your name]!

Lacuna

Notes

i' 1': There are traces of a sign above ID in line 2' (Borger's line 1').

i' 12': On the basis of ii' 10', the name of the god Aššur is likely written as ^da-šur, rather than as ^daš-šur; compare Borger, *BIWA* 182.

i' 18': There is sufficient space to restore [šá ú-šá-an-na?]-I a¹. The line most likely begins with šá or ša; compare Borger, *BIWA* 182.

i' 19': The line probably begins with [ki-a-am?]; compare Borger, *BIWA* 182.

ii' 1': The sign following UGU (read as *muḫ*) is 𒄩 (see copy). There are traces of a sign following 𒄩.

ii' 5': The restoration of u₄-me še-me-e after ina ITI šal-me is based on Prism T v 44 (Borger, *BIWA* 169). Borger's suggestion (*BIWA* 183) of [ūmi mitgāri] is not attested in Assurbanipal's inscriptions.

ii' 10': The restoration of ^d15 is based on Prism F vi 62 and Prism A x 109 (Borger, *BIWA* 74); the building report of all three inscriptions describe the rebuilding of the House-of-Succession in Niveneh. The pairing of the god Aššur with the goddess Ištar occurs regularly in the advice to future rulers of other prism inscriptions from Nineveh; see Prism B viii 79 (*BIWA* 117), Prism D viii 82 (*BIWA* 119), Prism C x 105 (*BIWA* 164), and Prism G ex. G1E iii' 6' (*BIWA* 119).

A 8130 (old Oriental Institute no. 236; Borger's E14) is an exemplar of Prism E₁, measures 6.4 × 5.2 × 4.5 cm, and comes from the middle of the last two columns of a heptagonal prism. Col. i' has part of the same version of the submission of Gyges as K 1821+ and A 7920+¹⁵. Line 1' duplicates the final line of A 7920+ i'. Col. ii' contains the final lines of the concluding formulae and traces of the date¹⁶. Lines 1'-4' duplicate A 7920+ ii' 20'-23'.

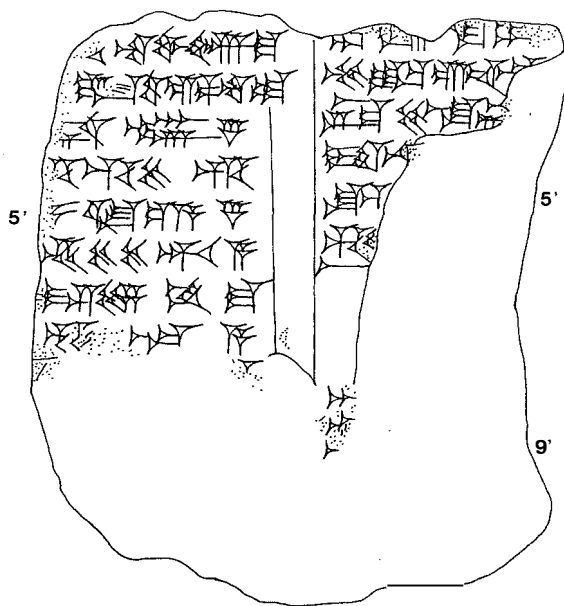


Fig. 3 - A 8130

¹⁵ Borger, *BIWA* 182, Stück 16.

¹⁶ Ibid. 184, Stück 19.

Transliteration

col. i'

Lacuna

- 1') [... x]x *na-pi-iḥ-ma*
 2') [... *na*]-¹*mir*-¹*tú* *šak-na-at*
 3') [... -U]š LUGAL-šá
 4') [... -r]i² *nam-ri*
 5') [... x]x *qé-reb-ša*
 6') [... ^a*a-šur*²] EN KUR.KUR DINGIR-*u-a*
 7') [...] ¹*i*-*zi-za-am-ma*
 8') [...] ¹*i*-*ba-a*
 9') [... x]x [x (x) x]x

Lacuna

col. ii'

Lacuna

- 1') ¹*at-ta ki-i*¹ [*ia-a-ti-ma*]
 2') MU.SAR-^ú *ši-t*[*ir MU-ia a-mur-ma*]
 3') ÌXGIŠ *pu-šu-u*[š UDU.SISKUR BAL-*qí*]
 4') *it-t*[*i MU.SAR-e ši-tir MU-ka*]
 5') *šu-k*[*un ^aa-šur u ^a15²*]
 6') *ik*-[*ri-bi-ka i-šem-mu(-ú)*]

 7') I[TI ...]
 8') ¹*i*²-[*na* ...]
 9') L[^ú² ...]

Translation

col. i'

Lacuna

i' 1'-9') [...] rose and [...] li]ght appeared. [...] of its king [...] bright [...] inside it [...] *The god Aššur*], lord of the lands, my god, [...] stood there and [...] he said to me: [...]

Lacuna

col. ii'

Lacuna

ii' 1'-6') You, like [me, (when) you find] an inscription writt[en in my name], anoi[nt (it)] with oil, [offer a sacrifice], (and) pla[ce (it)] wit[h an inscription written in your name! The god Aššur and the goddess *Ištar* will (then) listen to your] pr[ayers].

ii' 7'-9') [...th day of] the mo[nth ...], i[n the eponymy of ...], th[e ... of the city/land ...].

Notes

i' 2': [na]mirtu šaknat occurs also in the Assurbanipal Epic; see T. Bauer, *Asb.* pl. 21 K 2524:2 and pl. 45 K 7673:14.

i' 6': The restoration of the divine name is based on the god Aššur revealing a dream to the Lydian king in the Gyges narratives of the LET (Onasch, *ÄAT* 27/1, 110 LET rev. 21) and of Prisms B, D, C, CND, G, F, and A (Borger, *BIWA* 30 B ii 95-96, C iv 4-5, F ii 13, and A ii 97). For the writing of the name as ^aa-šur see A 7920+ ii' 10' (see above).

ii' 5': The restoration of the divine names is based on A 7920+ ii' 10' (see above).

ii' 6': This is the only known occurrence of *ikribika išemmû* ("they will listen to your prayers") in Assurbanipal's prism inscriptions. This benediction occurs regularly in texts written on clay cylinders from Babylonia; see, for example, G. Frame, *Rulers of Babylonia: From the Second Dynasty of Isin to the End of Assyrian Domination (1157-612 BC)* (RIMB 2; Toronto 1995) 198 no. B.6.32.1:27, 201 no. B.6.32.2:81-82, and 208 no. B.6.32.6:30.

ii' 7'-8': Parts of only three signs of the date are preserved. Nothing of value can be gleaned from the traces.

A 8140 (Borger's E15) measures $3.5 \times 3.7 \times 1.6$ cm, is a duplicate of K 1828, and most likely comes from the middle of cols. ii and iii of a heptagonal(?) prism. Col. i' contains a small portion of the prologue, a section stating that the gods placed Assurbanipal on the throne and that nobles and courtiers wanted him as their lord and desired his services as king¹⁷. Although only a small portion of the right side of each line is preserved, the passage can be restored from K 2694 + K 3050 (Streck's L[ondon]⁴) ii 11'-13'¹⁸. Col. ii' has part of the earliest known report of the first Egyptian campaign, the section describing events that took place during the reign of Esarhaddon, and partially duplicates K 1828 i'¹⁹.

¹⁷ Borger, *BIWA* 176, Stück 5.

¹⁸ C. F. Lehmann-Haupt, *Šamaššumukîn, König von Babylonien 668-648 v. Chr.* (Leipzig 1892) pl. XXXVI.

¹⁹ Borger, *BIWA* 177, Stück 7.

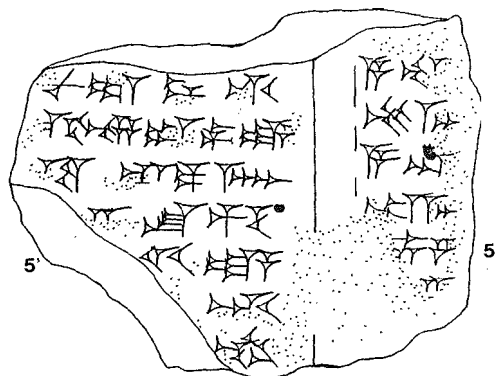


Fig. 4 - A 8140

Transliteration

col. i'

Lacuna

- 1') [ina qí-bi-ti-šú-n]u ṣi-ir-ti¹
 2') [ú-šib ṭa-a-biš ina G]IŠ.GU.ZA ṬAD¹ DÙ-ia
 3') [ru-bé-e LÚ.Š]u-ut-ṬSAG¹.MEŠ
 4') [EN-u-ti i]ḥ-šu-ḥu
 5') [i-ra-mu e-peš LUGAL-ti]i-ia
 6') [ina zi-kir MU-ia kab]-Ṭti¹
 7') [ḥa-du-ú i-ri-šú kib-rat LÍMMU]-tim

Lacuna

col. ii'

Lacuna

- 1') a-Ṭna¹ [mi-šir KUR-aš-sur.KI ú-tir]
 2') MU.ME[Š URU.MEŠ-ni maḥ-ru-ti ú-nak-ki-ir-ma]
 3') a-Ṭna¹ [eš-šu-ú-te iz-ku-ra ni-bit-sún]
 4') ṬARAD¹.ME[Š-šú a-na LUGAL-ti LÚ.NAM-u-ti]
 5') [L]Ú.ṬGAR¹-[nu-ú-te ú-pa-qid ina lib-bi]
 6') [GU]N² [man-da-at-tu be-lu-ti-šú]

Lacuna

Translation

col. i'

Lacuna

i' 1'-7') [... by their (the great gods')] exalted [command, I sat with pleasure on] the throne of the father who engendered me. [Nobles and

of]officials wanted [me as (their) lord (and) desired] me [as (their) king. By pronouncing my honour]ed [name, the (inhabitants of the) fo]ur [quarters rejoiced happily].

Lacuna

col. ii'

Lacuna

ii' 1'-6') [He (Esarhaddon) brought it (Egypt)] into [Assyrian territory. He changed the former] names [of the cities and gave them new names. He appointed his] servants [therein as kings, viceroys], (and) gover[nors. Annually, he established upon them *ta*]x (and) [tribute due to him as lord].

Lacuna

Prism H

Fragments of three clay prisms whose script is contemporary Babylonian preserve parts of the second latest dateable prism inscription composed under the auspices of Assurbanipal: Prism H (639 BC)²⁰. One fragment was discovered by R. Koldewey at Babylon (no. 1), one is said to have come from the German excavations at Babylon (no. 2), part of one exemplar was purchased by Chiera in 1928 (no. 3, A 8105), and another part of that last prism probably comes from clandestine digging at Nineveh (no. 3, MAH 16514). The extant text contains (1) parts of the prologue, which contains reports of the decoration of the temple of the god Marduk in Babylon (Esagil, "House whose Top is High") and the temple of the god Nabû in Borsippa (Ezida, "True House"), and the reconstruction of the temple of the god Nergal in Cutha (Emeslam, "House, Warrior of the Netherworld"), (2) the military narration, which describes the second Egyptian campaign, events along the Syrian Coast, the submission of the Mannean king Ualli, the first and second

²⁰ For the most recent edition, see Borger, *BIWA* 189-193, 210, 215, 217, 222-223, 228, 232, 250, and 257. A. R. Millard ("Fragments of Historical Texts from Nineveh: Ashurbanipal", *Iraq* 30 [1968] 109 and pl. XXIV), P. D. Gerardi (*Assurbanipal's Elamite Campaigns: A Literary and Political Study* [unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, University of Pennsylvania 1987] 114 n. 247), and Borger (*BIWA* 193 H4) regarded BM 127994 as an exemplar of Prism H since its script is contemporary Babylonian. The present author in *Ehulhul, Egipar, Emelamana, and Sin's Akitu-House: A Study of Assyrian Building Activities at Harrān* (= *Ehulhul*; unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, University of Toronto 2003) 330, and in *Ör* 72, 215, suggests that the piece is more likely part of an unclassified prism inscription whose *terminus post quem* is the accession of Ununaldasu (Huban-haltāš III) and whose date of composition is in the same year as Prism C (647 BC, possibly the eponymy of Nabû-da'inanni of Que). For the proposed date of Nabû-da'inanni's tenure, see M. Falkner, "Die Eponymen der spätassyrischen Zeit", *AfO* 17 (1954-56) 118; and Novotny, *Ehulhul* 17 n. 56.

Elamite campaigns, and the war against Dunanu of Gambulu, (3) an account describing Cyrus I and Pislumê sending messengers and tribute to Nineveh, (4) the final lines of the concluding formulae, (5) the date ("Aiiaru, day 6, year 30 of Assurbanipal, [ki]ng of Ass[yria]"). Although the building report is no longer preserved, it probably described the rebuilding of Esabab ("House of the Open Ear"), the temple of the goddess Gula in Babylon, as suggested by the mention of Gula in the concluding formulae (col. viii 8') and by the provenance of EŞ 7832 (n° 1).

Catalogue:

- 1') EŞ 7832 (Borger's H1)
- 2') Eşki Şark Eserleri Müzesi photo number K 714 (Borger's H2)
- 3') A 8105 (+) MAH 16514 (Borger's H3)

A 8105 (old Oriental Institute no. 252; Borger's H3) is the only identified exemplar of Prism H in the Oriental Institute, measures $5.2 \times 5.0 \times 3.2$ cm, and comes from the same prism as MAH 16514. Parts of the top of two columns (cols. iii'-iv', probably H v-vi) are preserved. The extant text contains a description of Assurbanipal placing Tammaritu on the throne of Elam, the king's return to Assyria with booty, and the beginning of a report describing his campaign against Dunanu of Gambulu.

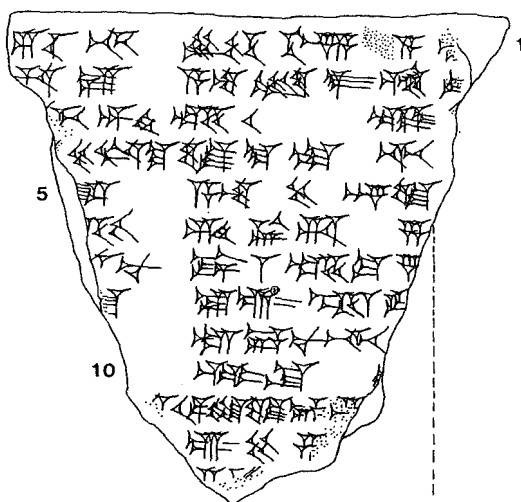


Fig. 5 - A 8105

Transliteration

col. i

- 1) [^mta-am]-ri-ti šeš-šú šal-šá-a-a
- 2) [ina URU.ḫi-d]a-lu a-na LUGAL-tú áš-kun
- 3) [ina tu-kul-t]i AN.ŠÁR ^d+EN u ^d+AG
- 4) [it-ti ša^p-la]t^p KUR.ELAM.MA.KI ma-at-ti
- 5) [ša^p-meš a-tu-r]a a-na KUR-aš-šur.KI
- 6) [ina me-ti-i]q gi-ir-ri-ia
- 7) [UGU ^mdu-n]a-nu DUMU ^md+EN-BA-šá
- 8) [ana KUR.gam-bu-l]u lu-ú al-li[k]
- 9) [URU.šá-pi-i-^d+EN] URU dan-nu-ti-[šú]
- 10) [...] ak-šu-u[d]
- 11) [^mdu-na-nu šeš.MEŠ]-[šú¹ ul-tu qé-reb ¹URU¹ [šú-a-tú²]
- 12) [bal-tu-su-un] ú-še-ša-[a]
- 13) [... x]x.ME[š[?] ...]

Lacuna

col. ii'

- 1) x[x ...]
- 2) x[x ...]
- 3) x[x ...]

Lacuna

Translation

col. i'

i' 1-5) I installed [Tamm]aritu, his third brother, as king [in the city of Ḫid]alu. [With the suppor]t of the gods Aššur, Bel (Marduk), and Nabû, [I return]ed [safely] to Assyria [with] abundant [boot]y from the land of Elam.

i' 6-13) [In the cours]e of my campaign, I march[ed to the land of Gambul]u [against Dun]anu, son of Bel-iqiša. I conquer[ed the ciy of Ša-pi-Bel, his] fortified city, [...]. I brough[t Dunanu] (and) his [brothers] out of [that] city [alive. ...]

Lacuna

col. ii'

ii' 1-3) No translation possible.

Lacuna

Notes

i' 11: Borger (*BIWA* 193) restores [šu-a-tu] at the end of the line, but there is insufficient space (see copy).

Prism J

Fragments of five clay prisms preserve parts of the latest dateable prism inscription attributable to the reign of Assurbanipal (ca. 638 BC): Prism J.²¹ There exemplars originate from nineteenth century excavations or from Thompson's excavations at Nineveh (nos. 1-3), one was purchased from a dealer in Mosul (no. 4), and one exemplar was discovered in the city areas "Ischin aswad" or "Merkes" of Babylon (no. 5). The fragments from Nineveh and Mosul contain (1) parts of the king's titles and epithets, (2) a passage describing how the gods supported Assurbanipal in a variety of ways, (3) accounts of the decoration of the temple of the god Marduk in Babylon (Esagila) and the temple of the god Nabû in Borsippa (Ezida), (4) reports of events along the Syrian coast and in Mannea, (5) a passage describing Assurbanipal's dealings with Tugdammu, king of the Umman-manda. The fragment from Babylon preserves the final lines of the military narration and the beginning of the building report, which describes the rebuilding or renovation of the *akîtu*-house of divine supremacy at Babylon. How the versions from Nineveh (*J_n*) and Babylon (*J_b*) relate to one another is unclear since the two do not sufficiently overlap.

Catalogue:

J_n

1. 82-5-22,18 + 91-5-9,139 + BM 123410 (Borger's J1)
2. 83-1-18,600 (+) BM 123425 (Borger's J2 and J4)²²
3. BM 121027 (Borger's J5)
4. A 8110 (Borger's J3)

J_b

5. VAT 17108 (Borger's J6)

A 8110 (old Oriental Institute no. 213; Borger's J3) is the only identified exemplar of Prism J in the Asiatic collection of the Oriental Institute, measures $6.2 \times 4.0 \times 2.2$ cm, is a duplicate of 82-5-22,18+, and comes from the middle (top half) of the first two columns of an octagonal prism. Col. i contains part of the prologue, namely the section describing how the gods supported Assurbanipal; lines 1'-2' partially duplicate 82-5-22,18+ iii'.

²¹ For the identification of Prism J, see Borger, *HKL* 2, 200 and *BIWA* 189. For the most recent edition, see Borger, *BIWA* 193-197, 209-210, 217, 222, and 250-251. For the proposed date, see Novotny, *Ehulhul* 26 and n. 95; and Novotny, *Or* 72, 215.

²² The non-physical join is based on the script (same hand), the colour and composition of the clay, and the curvature of the reverse side.

Col. ii preserves a section of an account of events in Mannea, in particular the overthrow of Ahšeri and the accession of Ualli²³. The height of the prism to which A 8110 belongs appears to have been much greater than that of 82-5-22,18+ and 83-1-18,600+ since the upper portion of col. ii of this exemplar contains military narration and those of the two aforementioned prisms have a continuation of the prologue, descriptions of the decoration of Esagila and Ezida, and since the report of events along the Syrian coast in 83-1-18,600+ iii almost certainly precedes the account of affairs in Mannea in A 8110 ii, as it does in all of the other known prism inscriptions²⁴. On the other hand, this difference may indicate that A 8110 is not an exemplar of Prism J, but rather part of a hitherto unclassified, late edition of Assurbanipal's *res gestae*; the piece may belong to the same inscription as DT 145 and BM 134609, if we assume these fragments are not exemplars of Prism J²⁵. Further evidence is needed to clarify the attribution of A 8110.

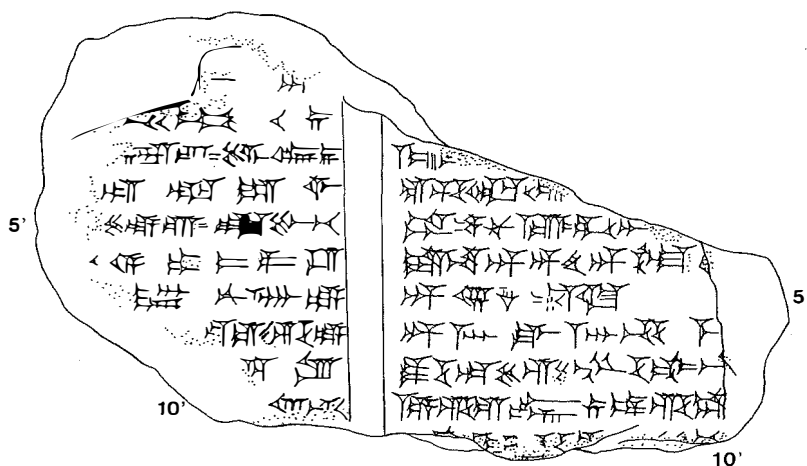


Fig. 6 - A 8110

²³ Borger, *BIWA* 195, Stück 4.

²⁴ *Ibid.* 195, Stück 4.

²⁵ *Ibid.* 197-198, 4^o Heft 460, and *LoBl* 90. The extant text preserves parts of reports of the Šamaš-šumu-ukin rebellion(?) and the fifth Elamite campaign, specifically the looting of royal statues from Susa and the return of the goddess Nanaia to Ehiliana in Uruk. Borger tentatively suggests that these fragments may be exemplars of Prism J.

Transliteration

col. i

Lacuna

- 1') [mal-ke GAL.MEŠ šá ši-taš u ši-l]a²-[an¹
 2') [a-na kit-ri-šú-nu ú]-[paq³-qu¹-u-ni
 3') [AN.ŠÁR ^dx ... GEŠTU.II] [DAGAL ú¹-šat-lim-u-in-ni
 4') [kul-lat tup-šar-ru-ti ú-šá-ḫi]-zu ka-ra-ši
 5') [ina UKKIN lu-li-me zi-kir M]U-ia ú-šar-bu-u"
 6') [... ke-m]u-u-a [i¹-tap-pa-[lu¹
 7') [EN-šal-ti-ia i-na-ru L]Ú.KÚR.[MEŠ¹-ia
 8') [... ú-šam-qí-t]u³ [ga¹-re-ia
 9') [...-k]a-ru
 10') [...]-[ru-ti¹

Lacuna

col. ii

Lacuna

- 1') m^rú¹-[al-li-i² ...]
 2') si-ḫu UGU-[šú ú¹-[šab-šú-u ...]
 3') EGIR-nu m^u-al-l[i-i DUMU-šú ú-šib ina GIŠ.GU.ZA-šú]
 4') da-na-an AN.ŠÁR ^dNIN.[LÍL ^d30 ^dUTU ^dIŠKUR ^dAMAR.UTU ^dzar-pa-ni-tum ^dAG ^dPAPNUN²]
 5') ^d15 šá [NINA¹.KI [^d15 šá É-kid-mur-ri ^d15 šá LÍMMU-DINGIR.KI ^dMAŠ ^dU.GUR ^dnusku²]
 6') DINGIR.MEŠ GAL.MEŠ EN.ME[š-ia e-mur-ma ik-nu-šá a-na ni-ri-ia]
 7') áš-šú ba-laṭ zi-tim-šú up-n[a-a-šú ip-ta-a ú-šal-la-a EN-u-ti]
 8') m^e-ri-si-in-ni DUMU-re-du-[ti-šú a-na NINA.KI iš-pur-am-ma]
 9') [x x x]x [x x x¹ [x (x) x]x x[x ...]
 10') [...][x¹[...]

Lacuna

Translation

col. i

Lacuna

i 1'-10') [... Great rulers from east and we]st [lo]oked to me [for their protection. The gods Aššur (and) ...] endowed me with a broad [mind (and) allow]ed me [to learn all of the scribal arts]. They made [the fame of] my [na]me great [in the assembly of *princes*. ... In] my [stead] they always answered [my adversaries, killed] my enemies, [... cut down] my foes, [...]

Lacuna

col. ii

Lacuna

ii 1'-9') U[*alli* ...] in[cited] a rebellion against him (Aḫšeri) [...]. Afterwards, Ual[li, his son, sat on his throne. He saw] the might of the gods Aššur, Mul[lissu, *Sîn*, *Šamaš*, *Adad*, *Marduk*, *Zarpanitu*, *Nabû*, *Tašmetu*], Ištar-of-Nineveh, [*Ištar-of-the-Bit-Kidmuri*, *Ištar-of-Arbela*, *Ninurta*, *Nergal*, (and) *Nusku*], the great gods, [my] lord[s, and bowed down to my yoke]. To save his life, [he opened up his] pa[lms (and) beseeched my lordship. He sent] Erisinni, [his] crown pri[nce, to Nineveh and ...]

Lacuna

Notes

i 5': The prism has BAD (see copy).

ii 4'-5': The god-list is restored from Prism J i 17-20 (Borger, *BIWA* 194 Stück 1). Compare also Prism A i 14-17 (Borger, *BIWA* 15): AN.ŠÁR^d NIN.LÍL^d 30^d UTU^d IŠKUR / ^d+EN^d +AG^d 15^d šá NINA.KI / ^dšar-rat-kid-mu-ri^d 15^d šá LÍMMU-DINGIR.KI / ^dMAŠ^d U.GUR^d nusku.

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